



THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

1230 YORK AVENUE

NEW YORK, NY 10021

March 10, 1980

JOSHUA LEDERBERG

PRESIDENT

Dr. Augustine Brannigan
The University of Calgary
Faculty of Social Sciences
Department of Sociology
2920 24 Avenue, N.W.
Calgary, Canada
T2N 1N4

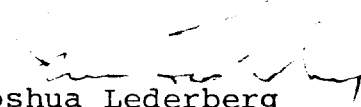
Dear Dr. Brannigan:

I very much enjoyed reading your paper on Mendel and it certainly enlarged my appreciation of the "rediscovery". I had much more to learn from your specialized study, than I could possibly correct or augment.

If I do criticize it it would be from the poperian standpoint that Mendel 1865 did not succeed in raising new questions or introducing new questions or introducing new methodology; the "rediscovery 1900" was followed by an explosion of inquiry as you well know. Perhaps the difference in our perspective comes largely from my being very deeply interested in "merely a theory of heredity"; I am quite prepared to respect the conclusions that you have reached with regard to the impact of Mendelism on evolutionary theory. And this may also be the line that divides gawking from yourself.

To turn to two details that fascinate a microbiologist: can you tell me any more of Mendel's interest in and observations of fungi and algae? (at your page 436). Where is Darwin's 1865 "brief paper written for Huxley concerning... sexually and asexually reproducing populations? (your page 429-430).

Yours sincerely,


Joshua Lederberg

Encl.